

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/610,484

Examiner

Tony H. Winner

Applicant(s)

BIRKENBAUGH, JASON

Art Unit

3611

Nly

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment filed 7/7/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 7-13.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 June 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### **Examiner's Amendment**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Kenneth H. Jack on 9/28/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

- I. Claims 5 and 6 are canceled without prejudice.
- II. Claim 13 (New): A trailer pulling apparatus comprising:
  - (a) a quill having a bore and having an outer surface;
  - (b) trailer mounting means fixedly attached to the quill;
  - (c) a tongue having a forward end and having a rearward end, the tongue extending through the bore of the quill;
  - (d) a hitch fixedly attached to the forward end of the tongue;
  - (e) spring hinging means;
  - (f) a pin latch; and,
  - (g) slide controlling means fixedly attached to the quill, the slide controlling means being adapted for alternately resisting and permitting sliding movement of the tongue through the bore of the quill; the slide control means comprising a shear pin, a first shear pin receiving aperture, and a second shear pin receiving aperture, the first and second shear pin receiving apertures respectively

extending through the quill and through the tongue, the first and second shear pin receiving apertures being alignable and being fitted for receipts of the shear pin; the slide control means further comprising a pin guiding bracket, the shear pin being mounted slidably within the pin guiding bracket for movement between first and second positions, the shear pin extending into the quill's bore while in its first position, the shear pin being withdrawn from the first position while in the second position; the spring biasing means being operatively connected to the shear pin and to the pin guiding bracket, the spring biasing means being adapted for moving the shear pin to the first position; the pin latch operatively spanning between the pin guiding bracket and the shear pin, the pin latch being adapted for releasably holding the shear pin in the second position; and

(h) pin releasing means fixedly attached to the forward end of the tongue, the pin releasing means being adapted for, upon rearward sliding motion of the tongue through the quill's bore, automatically disengaging the pin latch, freeing the shear pin for spring biased movement to the first position.

III. Claim 7 line 1, replaces the words "claim 6" with – claim 13 --.

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

4. Claims 7-13 are allowed because the prior art neither shows nor teaches a trailer pulling apparatus wherein pin releasing means fixedly attached to the forward end of the tongue, the pin releasing means being adapted for, upon rearward sliding motion of the tongue through the quill's bore, automatically disengaging the pin latch, freeing

the shear pin for spring biased movement to the first position and in combination with other elements recited.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony H. Winner whose telephone number is (703) 306-5957. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30am to 6:00pm.

7. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris, can be reached on (703) 308-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-9306.

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information-Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.



**TONY WINNER  
PATENT EXAMINER**

September 24, 2004



**LESLEY D. MORRIS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
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